

NATURAL GAS LIQUIDS

INDUSTRY DESCRIPTION

This report shows 1963 Census of Mineral Industries statistics for establishments classified in industry 1321. Natural Gas Liquids. This industry represents establishments primarily engaged in producing liquid hydrocarbons from oil and gas field gases. Establishments recovering liquefied petroleum gases incident to petroleum refining or to the manufacturing of chemicals are classified in Major Groups 28 or 29.

Figures are also shown in tables 1, 2, 3B, and 4 of this report for the three subindustries. Natural Gasoline, Cycle Condensate, and Fractionating. The Natural Gasoline Subindustry represents establishments primarily engaged in producing natural gasoline and liquefied petroleum gases from natural gas. The Cycle Condensate Subindustry represents establishments primarily engaged in producing cycle condensate and derived liquids at establishments cycling the natural gas back into the ground. The Fractionating Subindustry represents establishments engaged principally in fractionating natural gas liquids received from other establishments. For census purposes, distinction between the three subindustries was based on the respondent's reply to a check-box inquiry asking for type of plant as either "natural gasoline plant," "cycle condensate plant," or "fractionating plant." In general, plants were excluded from the Natural Gas Liquids Industry if the ratio of barrels of natural gas liquids recovered to million cubic feet of gas processed was less than 6.

This report does not include the recovery of natural gas liquids as a secondary activity in dehydration, pressure maintenance, and boosting plants. Insofar as such operations are associated with natural gas transmissions lines, they are not within the scope of the 1963 economic censuses (manufactures, mineral industries, and business). Also, no separate figures were obtained for 1963 on the production of field condensate and drips from wellhead fittings in the oil and gas fields. This operation is included with crude petroleum in the 1963 Census of Mineral Industries report. "Crude Petroleum and Natural Gas." Separate figures were requested for this item for 1958 and the quantity of 48.647 thousand barrels for field condensate and drips was reported. But it was found that many companies do not keep separate records for this item and, therefore, the figures

tabulated were of very limited significance. Also excluded from this report is the production of liquefied gases from petroleum refinery gases. Such production is included in the 1963 Census of Manufactures report, "Petroleum Refining and Related Industries." In 1963, the net shipment

s of liquefied petroleum gases by manufacturing industries was 178 million barrels as compared with net shipments of natural gas liquids by the natural gas liquids industry of 398 million barrels.

For the subindustries Natural Gasoline and Cycle Condensate, statistics are shown in tables 2 and 3B for establishments classified by method of recovery of natural gas liquids. separate figures being shown where possible for the methods of recovery: "compression," "refrigeration," "charcoal and other," and "combination." These classifications were also based on a check-box inquiry in the report form.